NEW

DISCOVERIES

Relating to the CURE of

CANCERS.

WHEREIN

The Painful Methods of Cutting them off, and Conſuming them by Cauſticks are Rejected, and that of Diſſolving the Cancerous Subſtance is recommended, with various Inſtances of the Author's Succeſs in ſuch Practice, on PERSONS reputed Incurable;

IN A

Letter to a Friend

To which is added,

A SOLUTION of ſome CURIOUS PROBLEMS, concerning the ſame Diſeaſe.

By WILLIAM BECKETT *Surgeon.*

The Second Edition, with Additions.

LONDON: Printed for *George Strahan*, at the *Golden-Ball*, over againſt the *Royal Exchange* in *Cornhill*. 1711.

New DISCOVERIES, &c.

SIR,

I LOOK upon it to be peculiar Happineſs to live in an Age, when Men of our Profeſſion conſider, that as the Art is capable of receiving daily Improvements, uſeful Diſcoveries, confirm'd by Experiments, ought to receive the joint Concurrence of their Well-Wiſhes; notwithſtanding, they may contradict an Opinion that has been almoſt univerſally receiv'd. Theſe, we ſhall always find, are the Gentlemen that in oppoſition to thoſe Bigots whoſe Tempers diſcover them to be the Votaries of a few opinionative Men, endeavour to guide their Judgments by Reaſon, back'd with judicious Obſervations, and what ever Arguments are produc'd, will never go about to controul Matter of Fact. It's a Grand Truth that Neceſſity gave being to *Phyſick* and *Surgery*, and Experience is the only Way to

bring 'em to Perfection; but it's much to be lamented by them that are Well-Wishers to those Arts, that the Persons which are perhaps capable of advancing them most, devote themselves so much to speculative Fictions (the Effects of teeming Brains) that some have pretended with a magisterial Air to dictate, even to experience it self. In such a Case it wou'd be needless to go about to offer Arguments sufficient to disengage their Inclinations, time only must discover to 'em their Error, when it makes 'em sensible they have, to no Purpose, persisted in the Pursute of frivolous Niceties; for in reallity, the Benefit of Mankind in general is deduc'd from practical Truths. The Thoughts of this are sufficient to inspire every generous Soul with an Ardent Desire of discovering something that may be of so universal an Advantage: As for my own Part, I was not animated to concern my self in the Undertaking I have engag'd in, by a Prospect of gaining that Honour that is often liberally bestow'd on those that mint new *Hypotheses*, or make new Discoveries; my only Design was to inform my self, whether some of those Diseases, which are generally reputed incurable, are not actually in themselves curable, and by this means to wipe off a Reproach which has been cast on Nature, when in reallity it proceeds only from our

own

own Weakneſs, and the Infirmity of our Art. A diligent Application to thoſe Diſtempers which baffle us moſt, has been frequently recommended by very reputable Authors, and ſome of thoſe who have obliged us with the Hiſtories of *Diſeaſed Perſons*, have very often mention'd conſiderable Cures, which have been happily perform'd after the Patients have been look'd upon by ſome as incurable. *Hippocrates* tells us, *Lib.* 2 *Aph.* 52. *Si Medico ſecundum rectam Rationem Facienti, Curatio non ſtatim ſuccedat, non eſt tamen mutanda Methodus, quamdiu id reſtat quod a Principio viſum eſt.* I am fully perſuaded that moſt Practitioners in *Surgery* have at ſome Time or other, by an induſtrious Application, been ſucceſsfull where Art could not warrant a Cure. As to the *Diſeaſe*, I propoſe to make the chief Subject of this Letter, tho' it be generally branded with the Character of Incurable, I muſt freely own I never cou'd diſcover any thing eſſential to it in general that ſhou'd make it ſo; it's true, there are many *Diſeaſes* that are not to be cured, where certain Circumſtances are conjoyn'd, which very much contribute to the Misfortune; tho' Others of the ſame *Claſs* exempt from thoſe Adhærents may, perhaps be happily enough cured: Thus for Inſtance. In *Cancers* we have but little Reaſon to expect a Cure in a Perſon that's old, if

the

the *Cancer* has been of many Years ſtanding, and is firmly fix'd to the Ribs; but if the Patient be not ſo far advanc'd in Years as to be uncapable of receiving the Benefit of Nature by the regular Diſcharge of the *Menſes*, and the *Cancer* be looſe; notwithſtanding, it be Ulcerated, over-ſpread with fungous Fleſh, diſcharge a filthy Matter, and ſmell very offenſively; we do upon Experience affirm that ſuch a Patient may be cur'd. We muſt own we cannot be of the Opinion of the *Paracelſians*, who affirm there is no *Diſeaſe* but what is curable in any Patient, for the Reaſon we have given; nor can we, with the *Galeniſts*, agree that the *Gout*, *Dead-Palſie*, *Stone*, *Cancer*, &c. are *Diſeaſes* abſolutely incurable; becauſe Experience diſcovers the contrary. We find that Mr. *Boyle* is of the ſame Opinion, and thinks it were no ill Piece of Service to Mankind, if a ſevere Collection were made of the Cures of ſuch Perſons as have been judged irrecoverable by the *Doctors*; that Men might no longer excuſe their own Ignorance by the Impotency of Nature, and bare the World in Hand, as if the Art of *Phyſick*, and their Skill, were of the ſame Extent. There ſeems to be one very effectual Way to reſcue the medicinal Art from the Aſperſions of ſome bold Perſons; and that is that of a certain Number of regular Practitioners in

Phy-

Phyſick and *Surgery*, each of them ſhould apply himſelf to the Study of one particular *Diſeaſe*: By this means we ſhould ſoon find they wou'd be capable of Surmounting thoſe Difficulties that have all along baffled the moſt Judicious of the general Practicers. How odd, and diſagreable this Opinion may ſeem to ſome Men I know not; bnt I aſſure you *Sir*, I find it of a very ancient Date, for *Herodotus*, a *Greek Hiſtorian* informs us that before his Time, the *Phyſitians* in *Ægypt*, uſed to apply themſelves to the Study and Advancement of one *Diſeaſe* in particular. *Baricellus*, and *Lionardo di Capoa*, obſerve the ſame likewiſe, in Relation to the Practice of *Phyſick* in that Country. *Baglivi*, in the Scheme he lays down for erecting of Colledges for the Improvement of *Phyſick*, tells us that every Fellow of his Literate Society muſt have one *Diſeaſe* allotted him for the Task of his whole Life; and which elſewhere he ſays is not ſufficient for the illuſtrating the Province of one *Diſeaſe*; but that we lie under a Neceſſity of taking in Materials from all Hands. But there is no Man that we know of, has ſpoke more agreably of this Matter than Dr. *Harris*, in his *Pharmaçologia Anti-Empirica*, he owns that he took more than ordinary Pains in one particular *Diſeaſe*, and aſſures us he verily believes if learned Men, after a com-

compleat Acquiſition of the univerſal Method of *Phyſick*, and a neceſſary Search into the Nature and Cures of thoſe manifold Infirmities and Diſeaſes, which, with a kind of infinite Variety, do afflict Mankind; would, with their utmoſt Vigour and Reſolution, proſecute the Knowledge of ſome one *Diſeaſe* eminently above others; they wou'd, moſt certainly, find a particular Providence attending and aſſiſting them in ſo good and honeſt a Deſign. He adds, a few Pages farther, that wherever a Man's Thoughts are intent and fix'd, wherever his Genius does naturally incline, and all his Aims and Application do continually tend, whether it be to pertinent or inſignificant Matters; whether it be too uſeful, or elſe meerly curious Things; if he has but tollerable Parts, and Education correſponding, he can hardly ever miſs; it is hardly poſſible he ſhould miſs; the becoming Eminent, and in great Meaſure perfect, (I mean perfect (ſays he) according to the Modulum of humane Capacity) in that one Point. But there is one Thing to be recommended to the Conſideration of the Perſon, who takes upon him the Enquiry into the Nature of one particular *Diſeaſe*, which perhaps he might be very liable to err in, if not caution'd againſt; and that is, that he be not too bold and raſh in his Attempts; for as *Gal-*

len

len ſays, *The* Phyſitian's *Art is not like that of an* Artificer, *who may make what Experiments he pleaſes, to ſatisfy his Curioſity; becauſe if he ſpoils the Materials he works on no Body, is endanger'd by the Miſcarriage: In Corpore autem humano* (adds he) *ea tentare quæ non ſunt Experientium comprobata Periculo non vacat, cum temerariæ Experientiæ Finis ſit totius Animantis internecio.* I believe we ſhall find, that one of the grand Reaſons, why Perſons, generally ſpeaking, have been ſo negligent in making any Attempts on *Cancers*, has been the ſeeming Diſcouragement they have all along met with from Authors. The Caution *Hippocrates* has given us in his Thirty eighth *Aphor. Sect.* 6. has ſcarce been omitted by any one conſiderable Perſon that has wrote of this Subject, tho' perhaps the Sentence has often had an Expoſition put upon it, contraryto the Author's meaning; but of this, more in its proper Place. I proceed now to give an Idea of *Cancers* in the Breaſt from an external Cauſe; and this I ſhall do without concerning my ſelf with the Opinion of the Antients; for ſince we have been ſo happy as to live in an Age which will be remarkable for the many ſurpriſing Diſcoveries which have been made in *Anatomy*: We ſhould be reckon'd unworthy the Advantages we enjoy, if we did not ſtudy to apply them to the Benefit of

Mankind in general. The more inquiſitive and learned Part of the World, are at this time very well aſſured that the Animal Body is an exquiſitely fram'd Machine, and that its Compoſure is little elſe than a Compages of branching and winding Canals, which are kept to a moderate Degree of Extention, by Fluids of different Natures; and that the motions of theſe were firſt determin'd by the divine Architect: Thus in a natural State, the whole *Fabrick* is govern'd by certain Laws impreſs'd on the Fluids; and we often find the unhappy Conſequences of the Diſcompoſure of a Part, to diſcover themſelves firſt by an Interruption of the Motion of the animal Juices. Thus in a *Cancer* of the Breaſt, which proceeds from a Blow or Bruiſe (as upon ſtrict Enquiry we have found they moſt commonly do) is it not probable that by ſuch means a Confuſion of the true Order of the little Glandulous Grains and their excretory Ducts may happen? and at the ſame time an extravaſated *Lympha* may lodge in ſuch a ſpungy Texture, which in time becoming viſcid, will coaleſs with the Glandular Subſtance, and form a *Maß* conſiderably compact? Now this being ſo, it's reaſonable to believe that as the Lymphatic Juice continues its Motion till it arrives at the indurated Part, its Paſſage muſt

muſt be embarraſs'd there; upon which, 'twill ſoon be qualify'd for a Union with the remaining Part of the glandulous Subſtance of the Breaſt; and ſo the whole be perfectly changed from what it was before. This, *Hypotheſis* is, in a great Meaſure, grounded on Experiments; for if we expreſs a Juice from ſome of the *Cancerous Maſs*, and hold ſome of it in a Spoon over a Fire, there immediately flys off a ſmall Vapour, and the Remainder hardens not unlike the White of an Egg boil'd; this ſhows it to have the Properties of the *Lympha*; For the Chymical *Analyſis* of that Liquor aſſures us 'tis a Compoſition of a great deal of fixt *Sulphur*, a little *Volatile*, ſome *Phlegm*, and much *Volatile Alkalie*; to which ſome add a little Earth: Now while the *Volatile Alkalie* keeps the *Sulphur* diſſolv'd, the *Lympha* remains in a State of Fluidity; but when, by making the ſame Experiment, the *Volatile Alkalie* is evaporated, the Remainder hardens, and forms a pretty, compact, whitiſh Subſtance. From hence the judicious *SURGEON* may eaſily deduce the Reaſon why theſe Sort of Tumors can never be brought to Suppuration. We ſhan't be ſo particular as to mention thoſe *Cancers* which proceed from internal Cauſes, nor ſeveral other things which relate to the former; for what We have here ſaid, we look upon to be

commonly the Method of the Formation of 'em; and as ſuch, we did endeavour to calculate Remedies that ſhould peculiarly operate on the *Maſs*, ſo as to diſ-unite the firm Cohæſion of its Parts, and diſpoſe 'em to ſeparate and come away, without any great Inconvenience to the Patient; which is what we wou'd *recommend* with all the Earneſtneſs imaginable to thoſe that are deſirous of diſcovering a Method of Curing *Cancers*. We were before ſenſible that it was poſſible for one Body to operate on another determinate Body, without being able to have any ſuch Effect on innumerable Others; as *Quickſilver* will diſſolve Gold, *Aqua-fortis* Iron, *Vinegar* the Shell of an Egg, *Oyl* common Sulphur, *&c.* which won't have any ſuch Effect on ſeveral other Bodies; for there's nothing more certain, than that the Operations of Diolvents are ſo determin'd by the various Textures of the Bodies on which they are employ'd, that a Liquor that is capable to Corrode a more hard and ſolid Body, may be unable to diſunite the Parts of one more ſoft and thin, if of a Texture indiſpos'd to admit the ſmall Parts of the *Menſtruum* It may be expected I ſhould ſay ſomething in relation to that which is generally look'd upon to the grand Cauſe of the Incurableneſs of *Cancers*, I mean the acid Humour in the Blood. But if thoſe Gentlemen who are fond of

enter-

entertaining this Opinion, do but conſider that *Cancers* are often form'd in a perfect State of Health; and that during the Time the Cancerous Subſtance diſſolves, and comes away according to our Method, the Sides will run a digeſted Matter, and heal by the Application of dry Lint only; they will be of my Opinion, that neither the *Atrabile* of the Ancients, the Corroſive *Alkalious* Salt of the *Chymiſts*, nor the predominant *Acid* of the Reſt of the Moderns, are capable of procuring thoſe Alterations that *Cancers* are ſometimes attended with. If we trace the Writings of our Predeceſſors to their earlieſt Date, we ſhall find that many of them have made Mention of the Roots of the *Cancer*, which they took to be the large blew Veins that are often extended on its Surface; and the entire Removal of theſe they thought to be abſolutely neceſſary, or the Patient cou'd not be cur'd: But I believe there is no Body at this Time that conſiders the *Mechaniſm* of the Parts in ſuch a Condition, but will agree they are the neceſſary Conſequents of it, and that their Abſence, or Preſence is of no Importance; that the *Cancer* is ſometimes attended with Adhærents, or Appendices, which may very well reſemble Roots, we are aſſured; but theſe generally lay deep, and not eaſily diſcover'd; the moſt conſiderable One that ever we ſaw was very near

Five

Five Inches long, and of an unequal Bigneſs, ſome Part of it did not exceed the Largeneſs of a *Gooſe*'s Quill, but ſome others were near as big as the Top of the Thumb, which reſembled ſo many Knots in it, it divided in the Middle, and continu'd ſeparated about an Inch and a Half, and then re-united, 'twas of a more tender Subſtance than the Body of the *Cancerous Maſs*, but of the ſame Colour, and was probably the Juice that was laſt apply'd to the *Cancer*, which aſſum'd a Form agreable to the Cavities it lodg'd it ſelf in. Such Adhærents as theſe are, I am more inclin'd to believe, are the Cauſe of the unſucceſsful Attempts on *Cancers*, than any *Acid* in the Blood; for I am of opinion there are few Perſons unacquainted with Medicines that are capable of correcting its *Acidity*, when it happens; and had the Cure of *Cancers* depended on that, I am poſitive they wou'd not at this Time have had ſuch ill Character. We have before, ſhow'd that *Cancers* have generally their Riſe from a Blow or Bruiſe, and that when the Body is in an healthful Condition, and the Blood and *Lympha* temperate and ſweet: Now if there always is an *Acidity* of the Blood when Perſons are afflicted with *Cancers*, the *Cancers* muſt ſometimes cauſe it, and not the *Acid* in the Blood the *Cancers*, as is the Opinion of moſt of the Moderns. What has been hitherto

ſaid

ſaid, is ſufficient to prove that if Men will be always ſo ſluggiſh as to acquieſs in the Dictates and Dogmatical Poſitions of their Predeceſſors, and not exert their Faculties in endeavouring to undeceive themſelves; we muſt no longer expect our Art will receive any Advancements, but as Slaves to their Opinions content our ſelves with what we know already. Were not *Pariſani*, *Riolan* the Son, and *Plempius*, ſo much in the Intreſt of the Ancients, that when our Country-man, the aſſiduous *Harvey* had diſcover'd the Circulation of the Blood, they not only oppoſed his plain Demonſtrations, but engag'd in vigorous Diſputes againſt him, tho' at the laſt they were obliged ſhamefully to recant their Follies. *Celſus* tells us, *Vix ulla perpetua Præcepta Ars Medicinalis recipit*; Scarce any of the Precepts of the Medicinal Art are perpetual. And ſhall we engage then in the Liſt with a few opinionative Men, that ground their Courſe of Practice on thoſe Methods only, in which they have been brought up, and implicitly aſſent to the Conjectures of Others. No certainly, this wou'd be to ſtrangle Truth, and extinguiſh the Vigour of our Wits with precarious Authorities. Conſonant to this, Dr. *Paxton*, in his lately Publiſh'd Treatiſe tells us, *Thus Men, out of a trifling Diſtruſt of their own Parts, will not uſe*

uſe them; or out of Lazineſs of Temper, will not employ them, chuſing rather to be wiſe or learn'd, by being adorn'd with Others Whimſies, than undergo any Labour, Fatigue, or Trouble, of being really ſo. I believe there are ſome Men that would rather contradict their Senſes than deny the Authority of a darling Opinion: Of this, we have a ſufficient Proof in an Inſtance, related by an *Italian* Author, before-mention'd. He tells us, *That a certain Publick Reader long Time verſed and grown Old in the Books of* Ariſtotle *being one Day preſent at a Diſſection, and clearly ſeeing that the* Vena Cava *takes its Riſe from the Liver, confeſs'd with Aſtoniſhment what his Senſes diſcover'd to him, but that he ought not therefore, by crediting his Senſes, to contradict his Maſter, who conſtantly affirms all the Veins in Man's Body to have their Original from the Heart; becauſe ſaid he, it is much more eaſy for our Senſes to be ſometimes deceiv'd, than the Great and Sovereign* Ariſtotle. I here ſeriouſly confeſs, I have as much Veneration for Antiquity as any Perſon whatſoever; but it would be ridiculous, if, as One ſays, we ſhou'd ſo far forego our own Judgments, as always to follow the Foot-ſteps of Others, and to be certain of nothing our ſelves: For this wou'd be to ſee with others Eyes, to hear with others Ears, and to underſtand with other Men's Intellects; ſo that whenever we make Quo-

tations

tations from the Ancients to ſtrengthen our Opinions, we ought to do it judiciouſly, and fully conſider, whether their Notions of Things, are conſonant to the Experience of theſe Times. To prove to you, *Sir*, that I have not proceeded to apply my ſelf to the Cure of ſo formidable a Diſeaſe, without a Precedent, I ſhall inſtance to you that *Fuſchius*, a learned *Italian Surgeon*, had ſuch a wonderful Reputatation for it formerly, that ſome Authors ſay he was diſtinguiſh'd by a particular Title, which diſcover'd his Succeſs. His Method I have made uſe of, and tho' by paſſing thro' ſeveral Hands (the Author being mention'd by Few) it has been ſtampt with wonderful Encomiums, I have not hitherto, found it deſerves it, notwithſtanding, I did not omit the moſt minute Circumſtance in preparing the Medicine, or proſecuting the Directions; but in its proper Place, I ſhall take particular Notice of this, and ſeveral other Remedies, that have been recommended by ſome Authors, as ſubſtantial and extreamly uſeful; for if in One or Two Inſtances they have been crown'd with Succeſs, by Degrees they are handed down as infallible in all Diſeaſes of the like Form. To the former Account I may add, that Monſieur *Alliot*, *Phyſician* to the Duke of *Lorrain*, has apply'd himſelf to the Cure of this Diſeaſe

very ſucceſsfully, as a *Schedule* he Publiſh'd at *Paris* ſome Years ago informs us; we are likewiſe aſſured by Mr. *Boyle*, that Dr. *Haberfield*, one of the Principal *Phyſicians* of *Bohemia*, has had extraordinary Succeſs in the Cure of *Cancers*; and the Sieur *Gendron*, Doctor of *Phyſick* in the Univerſity of *Montpelier*, has done extreamly well on that Head; the Latter of theſe Gentlemen I can't mention, without making an Apology for not Publiſhing our Annotations on his Enquiries relating to *Cancers*, which was promis'd at the latter End of our Chirurgical Remarks, Printed above a Year ago; but I aſſure you *Sir*, I was more inclin'd for ſome Reaſons to offer what is therein contain'd, with ſeveral Obſervations made with the greateſt Exactneſs, and to which, perhaps I may have an Opportunity of making ſeveral Additions, in a particular Treatiſe, ſo that the whole may conſpire to finiſh a compleat Account of this Diſeaſe. I had at firſt a Deſign of enlarging conſiderably on this Subject in this Letter by adding various Things, but conſidering they might better find a Place in what I juſt now mention'd, and that you did not deſire an exact Hiſtory of the Diſeaſe, I reſolved to omit them. I ſhall now proceed to give you ſome Inſtances of the Succeſs of our Method, as being what you are moſt ſolicitous of, the Caſes

I ſhall relate ſhall be each of 'em different from the Other, for I know you don't approve of that pompous Method of ſome Perſons, that enumerate abundance of Inſtances of Cures when perhaps there is no great Difference in the Caſes or the Method of treating them.

The moſt conſiderable Caſe that offer'd it ſelf during our firſt Enquiries into the Nature of *Cancers*, was that of a Woman, who about Four Years before receiv'd a Blow on one of her Breaſts, upon which it began to ſwell, grow painful, and after ſome time became all over livid, and of ſo prodigious a Bigneſs and Weight, that ſhe was obliged to keep it ſuſpended by a Napkin round her Neck: But in regard our Method was not put in Practice till by other applications it was become ulcerated, we ſhall ſpeak of it as ſuch. The Patient, then at this time complain'd of a very violent Pain, which extended it ſelf to the Back and Shoulder, by the Communication of the Nerves (for thoſe of the Breaſt come from the fifth Pair of the Spine, and from a *Plexus* about the *Clavicles*.) To remedy this, ſhe had taken no ſmall Quantity of *Hypnotic* Medicines, which, without Doubt, deſtroy the due Texture of the Blood, and ſo become prejudicial to the Patient, and diſadvantagious to the *Surge-*

on that propoſes a Cure. But becauſe Perſons generally find ſome Relief by Opiates, as they retard the determin'd Motion of the Blood, ſtraiten the Nerves, and check the tumultuous and diſorderly Influx of the Spirits; ſo, probably, in theſe Caſes, their Uſe will be continu'd. Beſides the acute Pain, the *Cancer* was over-ſpread with fungous Fleſh, its lower Part extreamly hard, knotty, blackiſh, and its Baſis ſeem'd inclinable to fix; the Matter which was diſcharged was thin, reddiſh, and ſtank abominably. This was the Condition of this poor Woman, when we firſt apply'd our grand Diſſolvent; the Pain ſhe was attended with the firſt and ſecond Day after was inconſiderable, nor did ſhe complain of more afterwards, then would have been procur'd by the moſt mild and eaſy Remedy the Diſpenſatory affords. In four Days Time we found a very evident Alteration for the Better; for the Conſiſtence of the Matter was changed, and the Surface of the *Cancerous Maſs* became ſomewhat ſoft, we continu'd the Uſe of the ſame Medicine, and in a few Days more, ſome Part of the *Cancer* came away with the dreſſing. In ſhort, in about Six Weeks time, the whole Subſtance was entirely gone, and nothing remain'd to be done but to heal the Ulcer, which was effected in about a Fort'-night. During the Time

ſhe

ſhe was under Cure we gave her a proper internal Medicine, not calculated to deſtroy the Acidity of the Blood, but to diſpoſe the whole *Cancerous Maſs*, with its Appendices to come away, which might otherwiſe, as the Seeds of the Diſeaſe, cauſe it to ſpring again, thus was this Patient, (after ſo great a Fatigue ſhe had undergone before ſhe came to me) perfectly Cur'd, and has continu'd ſo to this Time, without any manner of Inconvenience as ſhe lately told me, it being a long time ſince ſhe has been well.

A Gentlewoman near Fifty Years of Age, by ſome Accident receiv'd a Blow on her Left Breaſt which in a few Days was ſucceeded by a conſiderable Tumor, whereupon ſhe apply'd her ſelf to a *Surgeon*, who imediately let her Blood, ordered her to take the *Lap. Hibern* in Poſſet-Drink, and embrocated the Breaſt with *Ol. Succini*: By the Uſe of theſe Means the Swelling was much abated, a ſmall Hardneſs only remaining, which didn't exceed a ſmall Wall-Nut in Bigneſs, in this State, with very little Pain, ſhe continu'd above a Year; but being perſuaded to apply an *Emp. de Ran. cum Mer.* to it, it encreaſed very apparently, was extreamly painful, and in Seven Months time became as big as a large Egg: After this

this she made use of a Woman who was reputed Famous for these Cases; but by One or Two of her Applications the Tumor became as big again as before: In short, it continu'd to encrease gradually from that time, till the whole Breast which was of a monstrous Bigness, and which was judged not to weigh less than Eight Pound, in time became entirely *Cancerous*. It was at this time that I saw it, the Skin was very Livid, looking sleek and shining, and seem'd ready to open, as being scarce capable of longer containing such a prodigious hard *Mass* as laid conceal'd under it, and was in all Probability as big as the Breasts of the *Ammonian* Women, of which *Juvenal* thus speaks. *In Mero, crasso majorem Infante Mamillam.* She had been with various experienc'd and reputable *Surgeons* before, among which was One not long ago diseased, who was justly look'd upon as an Ornament of his Profession; but not One would willingly attempt a real Cure by cutting it off, or any other Way: They only prescrib'd some palliating Remedies to remove the Pain and prevent its Breaking. I was animated by my former Successes, and prevail'd with my self to undertake it, not thinking I was at all blameable if my Success in so extraordinary an Affair contradicted the Prognosticks of so many worthy Gentlemen; and tho' it

did

did, I ſhall at all times think my ſelf obliged to pay a Defference to 'em. I began the Cure by removing the Integuments from the upper Part of the Cancerous Subſtance, but did not wait for a Separation of the Slough the Eſcarotick made for fear of being incommoded in my Proceedure by a Fungus; For this Reaſon I mix'd ſome of our Diſſolvent with a digeſtive Ointment, by which Means I had a Part of the *Cancerous Maſs* came away with it, without any Trouble to my Patient. I continu'd this Method of Dreſſing ſeveral Days longer, with very little Alteration; but upon a Complaint of a Pain between the Shoulders, I was obliged to change my Medicine, and foment the *Cancer* with an infuſion of ſome of thoſe Herbs that contain many *Volatile* attenuating and active Particles. And here I can't but remark, by the by, that Applications to the pained Part would have been of no Effect, as I have many times obſerved, and particularly in a Woman which had a Cancerated Breaſt, that was violently afflicted with a Pain in her Arm on the ſame Side, which would not be removed by any of the Applications the Perſon that had the Care of her made uſe of the affected Arm. To this I might ſubjoyn a very pertinent Caſe from *Galen*; but I fear I ſhall digreſs too far. The Pain

of

of my Patient's Back being removed, I proceeded to apply the Diſſolvent, which ſo ſoft'ned the Superficies of the *Cancerous Maſs*, that in Three or Four Days Time I cou'd take off above a Quarter of a Pound of it with the Edge or Back of my Inciſion Knife, and my Patient not ſo much as feel me, this I continu'd to accuſtom my ſelf to, becauſe 'twould have been more tedious to have waited for the coming away of the *Cancerous Maſs* of it ſelf. Sometimes I varied my Applications as I ſaw Occaſion, but as my Patient confeſs'd, I ſcarce put her to any more Pain during the Time her Breaſt was diſſolving (abating for the Pain of her Back) than there is in the dreſſing of an Iſſue. The prodigious Bigneſs of the *Cancerous Maſs* made the Cure the more tedious; for 'twas above Three Months before all of it was entirely diſſolv'd and gone; but this being at length ſurpriſingly and very happily effected the *Cancerous Ulcer* (the laſt Part of the *Cancer* that came away left) was incarn'd and cicatriced by an Infuſion of vulnerary Herbs, to which was added a ſmall Quantity of Tincture of Myrrh, thus was this Cure entirely compleated and my Succeſs in it confirmed that *French* Proverb, which ſays, *'Tis better to be condemn'd to Die by the Doctor, than by the Judge.* I did not make uſe of that internal Medicine I mentioned in the former

former Caſe, becauſe here I found no preſſing Neceſſity for the Uſe of it, but ſome other proper Phyſick was taken to diſpoſe the Ulcer to heal, as one would have done in any other Caſe Upon the whole of this Cure, I cannot ſay whether I had more Trouble with the *Cancer*, or in endeavouring to oblige my Patient to a ſtrict Obſervance of ſome of the Non-Naturals ſhe ſo often err'd in. There's nothing can create a greater Trouble to the *Surgeon*, than to find Patients negligent of their Healths, by not endeavouring to prevent or regulate Miſcarriages, nor taking ſo much Care of themſelves, as they expect the *Surgeon* ſhould take of 'em. The Rules and Directions of *Phyſitians* and *Surgeons*, given to their Patients, we have Reaſon to believe were not ſo often violated formerly; for in ſome Places they oblig'd themſelves very ſtrictly to the Obſervance of 'em, and ſome Hiſtorians give us an Account that *Seleucus* made a Law, that if any of the *Epizephyrian Locrians* drank Wine, contrary to the *Phyſitian's* Direction, tho' they eſcaped the ill Conſequents that might have attended it, Death was their Puniſhment, becauſe they did contrary to what was preſcribed them.

A Woman about Thirty Years of Age had been for a conſiderable Time afflicted with a hard painful Tumor under her Tongue, for the Cure of which ſhe had apply'd her ſelf to various Perſons, but without Succeſs. When I ſaw her, I found the ſwelling to be hard, painful, of a livid Appearance, and incommoded her ſo much in ſpeaking, that ſhe could not pronounce her Words articulately. I was of the Opinion of ſome Gentlemen that had ſeen it before me, *viz.* That it was undoubtedly *Cancerous*, and as ſuch I proceeded to the Cure of it; but I met with more Difficulties in this Caſe than I at firſt expected, for after I thought the *Cancerous Subſtance* had been entirely diſſolv'd, and I had reduced the Ulcer to a very narrow Compaſs, it began to ſwell again, and in a ſhort Time enlarged it ſelf to almoſt the Bigneſs it was at firſt: This put me upon a Neceſſity of making an Inciſion into the Body of the Tumor, that I might commodiouſly come at the remaining Part, and ſo diſpoſe ſome little Doſſels of Lint, arm'd with our Diſſolvent, that they might have their deſir'd Effect, and this in every Reſpect anſwer'd what we propoſed; ſo that we proceeded imediately to incarn the Ulcer, which we did by a Lotion prepared of an Infuſion of ſome vulnerary Herbs, and *Mel Roſar.* Thus was this Woman perfectly

Cured,

Cured, and has continu'd well about a Year.

Becauſe I have always found greater Difficulty in treating *Cancers* of the Mouth and Lips than thoſe of the Breaſt; I'll here relate an Inſtance of One upon the lower Lip that prov'd extreamly troubleſome. It ſometimes happens that One, or more, of thoſe Glands which are ſpread on the Inſide of the Cheeks and Lips, called *Buccales* and *Labiales*, receive ſome Damage by a Bite or Blow; upon which they generally tumefy very much, become painful, and in Proceſs of Time (if proper Means are not made uſe of) may become *Cancerous*. Such was the Caſe of a Woman about Thirty Years of Age, who having had a Blow on her lower Lip, neglected it till it was conſiderably tumefied, grew very painful, and became extreamly troubleſome to her. The Circumference of the Swelling when I ſaw it, which was many Months after the Blow was receiv'd, was very much inflamed, and a ſmall Quantity of *Icorous* Matter diſcharged from ſeveral ſmall Puſtules, which over-ſpread it; the Middle, which was the Body of the *Cancer*, was hard of a whiteiſh Colour, and moveable; its Sides being only connected to the contiguous Parts by ſome ſmall Filaments that were

detach'd from it. The ſame Thing Doctor *Gendron* has diſcover'd in an ulcerated *Cancer* on the Forehead of the Servant of a certain *Marqueß*, as he obſerves in his Third *Chapter* of the Tract we have before mentioned. I began with my Patient by applying cool and temperate Remedies, till the Inflamation was conſiderably abated; after this I apply'd our Diſſolvent, which operated ſo mildly that my Patient was not ſenſible of near ſo much Pain as before ſhe was apprehenſive of: In ſhort, the Body of the *Cancer* was removed, and a good digeſted Matter diſcharged from the Sore. Now all the Difficulty was after what Manner we ſhould proceed to diſpoſe the little *Cancerous* Branches in the Skin to come away, but this we effected after the following Manner; the Conſiſtence of the Medicine we before apply'd, was ſuch as was no way qualified for rooting out the the Cancerous Filaments, whereupon we were obliged to procure its Diſſolution in a proper Menſtruum, tho' it required a conſiderable Time to do it; by this means, we ſoon found, that what before was ineffectual was now capable of effecting what we deſired. This being done, the Ulcer was incarned by a Sarcotick Infuſion (for I never uſe Ointments in theſe Caſes) and cicatrized by the common drying Plaſters. It's to be obſerved,

ved, that the Scar ſtill continues hollow (it having been heal'd near Two Years) and not like thoſe that are the Conſequents of well order'd ſimple Ulcers.

The following Obſervation contains an Account of One that was cured of an incipient *Cancer* in her Breaſt, by Internals. I was the rather inclin'd to ſet down the whole Proceſs of this Cure, becauſe by theſe, or ſuch like Medicines, Perſons under the ſame Circumſtances may perhaps be cured, tho' by ſome they may be thought incurable. The Caſe is this; A Gentlewoman, Thirty Years of Age, of a thin ſpare Habit of Body, by ſome Accident receiv'd a Blow upon One of her Breaſts, which put her to an immediate Pain, and that very acute; but it leſſen'd upon her being let Blood, and the Application of a diſcutient Plaſter: However, in a few Days, ſome of the glandulous Grains of the Breaſt became indurated, and in Proceſs of Time, by their Increaſe, they were rendred painful. At this Time ſhe ſought out for freſh Advice, and continu'd Two Months under the Care of a Perſon ſhe was recommended to; but Things not ſucceeding according to Expectation, ſhe became a Patient to Three or Four more. During this Time the Lump continu'd to encreaſe

encreaſe but ſlowly, and at the Expiration of Six Months it appear'd to be a very hard painful Tumor in the Middle of the Breaſt, but no bigger than a Hen-Egg; whereupon 'twas thought proper to commence her Method of Cure by exhibiting the following *Pills*. ℞ *Pill. Tartar. Quercetan.* ʒſs. *Calomel.* gr. 8. *F. Pill.* N°. 5. Theſe were likewiſe continu'd twice a Week during the whole Cure; after this, was order'd the following Infuſion, ℞ *Vin. Rhenan.* ℔ii. *Milleped.* ʒii. *Ocul. Cane.* ʒſs. *Croci.* ʒii. This was not to be taken alone, but when it had ſtood Four and Twenty Hours, three or four Spoons-full of it was to be mix'd with a Draught of the enſuing Dietetick-Drink, and taken in the Morning, and at Four of the Clock in the Afternoon. ℞ *Rad. Sarſaparill.* ʒii. *Chinæ* ʒvi. *Lig. Saſſafr.* ʒi, *Corn. Cervi,* ʒi. *Sem. Correand.* ʒſs. *Sant Rub.* ʒii. *Coq. in aq. Font. Congiis* 4 *per Horæ dimidium, deinde ſtent Clauſe ſuper Cineres Calidos per Horas,* xii; *poſtea ebulliant ad tertiæ Partis Conſumptionem.* By the Continuance of theſe Means about two Months, and obſerving a regular Method of living, the Cure of this Patient was effected; tho' by ſome ſhe had been look'd upon as incurable, unleſs ſhe wou'd ſubmit to the cutting it out, which is not often attended with Succeſs.

Perhaps,

Perhaps, *Sir*, here you may object, that it is acting diſengenuouſly, and not like a Friend to give you an Account of thoſe Perſons only where I have ſucceeded. To this I anſwer, that excepting one Woman, that was emaciated almoſt to the laſt Degree by the exceſſive Diſcharge of a fætid Icorous Matter from her Breaſt, and an Abſceſs under her Arm, and who was carried of by a violent Looſneſs, I never had a Perſon miſcarried under my Care, where I propos'd a Cure. That poor Woman I ſuffer'd my ſelf to be perſuaded to take care of, having but little Proſpect of effecting it, yet my Endeavours ſucceeded ſo well, that had it been in our Power to put a Stop to her Looſneſs, I am of opinion ſhe might have been cured.

What has been hitherto ſaid, I do not queſtion but is ſufficient to ſatisfy you, that this formidable *Diſeaſe* is not ſo rebellious, but that it may be ſometimes conquer'd by Art; and I might here relate a Caſe I have at this preſent Writing, wherein not only a Part of the *Cancer* was fix'd, but there were hard *Cancerous* Knots extended to the Arm-pit; and yet this ſeems to be almoſt well; the Ulcer that remains, and which heales daily, not being much broad-

er

er than a Crown Piece. But in regard the Patient is not entirely cured, I ſhall reſerve this Relation 'till another Opportunity; tho' I will embrace the Preſent to aſſure you that I am,

SIR,

Your very Reſpectful Brother,

and Humble Servant,

Wm. Beckett.

Hatton-Garden,
July 12, 1711.

A

SOLUTION

Of ſome Curious

Problems

Concerning

CANCERS.

Problem I.

Whether the Cancerous Juice is Corrosive, or not.

WE can't come to a certain Knowledge of the Principles of the Juice which is lodged in the Cancerous Substance, altho' it enjoy'd the very same Properties, of that which is discharged from an ulcerated *Cancer*, from the Account which Authors have given of the Latter; for they have differ'd very much in determining the Nature of the Salts, with which they suppose it abounds. *Helmont*, *Van Horne*, and most of those Gentlemen that were Chimically inclin'd, were of Opinion they belong'd to the Alkaline Family, but afar greater Number than those, have thought they are Acid. *Riolan*, the Father in his Chirurgical Works, without giving his Opinion what the constituent Parts of the purulent Matter are, affirm'd

Vide Riolanus *Cap.* 13. *Sect.* 2.

firm'd it to be as ſtrong as Poiſon, and that no Death could be deviſed too cruel for ſuch a One as ſhou'd give it to a Man. This brings to my Remembrance an very unhappy Accident a Gentleman inform'd me of that befel Mr. *Smith*, one of the *Surgeons* of St. *Thomas*'s *Hoſpital*, who being ſo curious as to taſte the Juice of a Cancerated Breaſt preſently after it was extirpated, found himſelf very ſtrangely affected by it, in a very ſhort Time; he waſhed his Mouth with various Things, but nothing could free him from that penetrating, malignant, and nauſious Savour, he was continually attended with; in ſhort, he became Conſumptive, and in a few Months died a Martyr to the Art of *Surgery*. I confeſs, when I receiv'd this Account it did not a little ſurprize me, becauſe I had ſeveral times had the Curioſity to do the very ſame Thing; at the *Hoſpital* where that unfortunate Gentleman made the Experiment. I never found any remarkable Sharpneſs in it, tho' 'twas always attended with a very unpleaſant Savour. I proceeded at firſt very cautiouſly in making this Attempt; for I diluted ſome Drops of the Juice in ſeveral Spoons-full of fair Water, till at length, not finding any Inconvenience from it, I came to the Juice it ſelf. We can't imagine the Death of that Gentleman

man before-mention'd, was procur'd by the Action of any corroſive Salts, whether *Acid* or *Alkaline*, which would have cauſed a Corroſion of the Parts; but that its only accountable from the extraordinary Stench and Malignity of the Matter, which impreſſing its Virulency on the Animal Juices muſt undoubtedly diſturb their regular Motions, and cauſe the utmoſt Confuſion of the whole Æconomy. It muſt certainly be a very tragical Scene, to obſerve how Nature, by ſo inconſiderable Means, confounds and inſults over the Animal Syſtem; but ſtill there is nothing we are more certain of, than that her Method of Procedure is always conſiſtent to the Rules ſhe acts by. Since the writing of this, looking over a little Tract which informs us of the Rarities in *New-England*, I met with a Relation which diſcovers to us the peculiar and odd Quality of the Juice of a Cancerated Breaſt, or Wolf, as our Author calls it. He tells us that an indulgent Husband, by ſucking his Wife's ſore Breaſt to draw out the Poiſon, loſt all his Teeth, but was attended by no other Inconvenience. Now this does not prove that ſo ſtrange an Effect ſhould ſucceed the ſucking the Ulcer, becauſe of the Corroſiveneſs of the Matter, for had it been ſo, ſuch tender Parts as the Gums, Lips, and Tongue, could not have eſcap'd

ſo

so well as to have receiv'd no Damage by it.

Problem II.

Whether Cancers *are contagious, or not.*

THERE has been a very great Disagreement in the Sentiments of our Predeceſſors as to this Point; but *Zacutus Luſitanus* propoſes to prove it by Reaſon and Experience, his Reaſons are Firſt, becauſe in an ulcerated *Cancer* there's a Cadaverous Stench and Rottenneſs, which infects the neighbouring Parts, with its Virulency. *Secondly*, Becauſe a *Cancer* is the ſame *Diſeaſe* as an *Elephantiaſis*, and *Leproſy* of a particular Part. To this, *Sennertus* in his Poſthumous Works anſwers, that all corrupted and fætid Subſtances are not contagious; for in a *Gangrene* and *Sphacellus*, there is the greateſt Corruption and offenſive Smell, yet we don't find that a Perſon is kill'd by it: He adds, tho' a *Cancer* has ſome Similitude to an *Elephantiaſis*,

Vid. *Zacut. de Prax.* Med. admirand. *Lib.* 1. *Obſ.* 15.

aſis, they are different *Diſeaſes*. *Luſitanus* deduces his Experience from an Obſervation of a poor Woman, that having an ulcerated *Cancer* in her Breaſt, and lying with three Children, they were affected after the ſame Manner by the Contagion. He ſays that Two of 'em died; but the Third, which was of a ſtronger Conſtitution, had the *Cancer* cut off by a *Surgeon*, and was cured. *Sennertus* is of Opinion that theſe Children did not contract the *Diſeaſe* by Contagion, but that it was by Hereditary Succeſſion. We likewiſe find that *Cardan. Lib. de Venen. Cap.* 12. is of Opinion that *Cancers* are not contagious. However, we'll not make any particular Enquiry into theſe Authors Reaſons, when they ſo ſtrenuouſly maintain this Point; but only relate a remarkable Hiſtory, which will prove the contrary, if the *Cancerous* Matter comes to an imediate contract with a ſoft and glandulous Part. The Relation I had (ſome time ago) from a Gentleman not long ſince deceaſed, who, out of a pious Diſpoſition, had devoted himſelf for ſeveral Years laſt paſt, to be ſerviceable to the greateſt Objects of Charity. He inform'd me that a Tradeſman's Wife in *Nottingham*, being ſo unhappy as to labour under a *Cancer* in one of her Breaſts,

Vid. Sennert. *Paralipom. ad Part.* 1 *Cap.* 19.

Breaſts, her Husband was of Opinion he cou'd relieve her by ſucking it; accordingly he put this Method in Practice, in hopes without doubt he cou'd effect a Cure, by drawing the *Cancerous* Matter out of the Nipple; he continu'd his Attempts for ſome Time, but found it did not anſwer his Deſign; for tho' a ſmall Quantity of Matter was diſcharged this way, the *Diſeaſe* ſtill became worſe, and ſhe terminated her Life ſoon after. Two Months were ſcarce expir'd before the Husband of the Deceaſed came up to *London*, upon Account of a ſwelling he had aroſe on the Inſide of the upper Jaw; he apply'd himſelf to ſome ingenious *Surgeons* for Advice, who aſſured him he muſt undergo the drawing of ſeveral Teeth on that Side of the Jaw which was affected, and have the Swelling, and Part of the Jaw-Bone (if neceſſary) cut away; he went away very much diſatisfy'd with ſo harſh a Propoſal, and became a Patient to a Perſon, who undertook to cure him with *Gargles*, and ſuch inconſiderable Remedies; however, by the Uſe of theſe Things he was of Opinion he became much better, and thought he ſhould be cur'd. Upon this he retir'd into the Country to his Buſineſs, but in leſs than a Month's Time he was obliged to come up again, and have the former

Method

Method put in Practice. But the Event was according to that Expreſſion of *Galen*, *Quibus item ſunt Cancri in cavitate Corporis, aut Palato, ſede utero, ſi ſecentur, aut urantur, Ulcera cicatrice induci non poſſunt.* For the Sore could never be brought to Cicatrize, but the *Cancer* continu'd to ſpread, till it had extended it ſelf over moſt of the internal Parts of the Mouth, and to the inner Part of the Noſe: In this unhappy Condition, he liv'd ſome time, but at laſt became ſo frightful an Object, and the Stench that continually proceeded from the Parts was ſo offenſive, that he retir'd himſelf from the World, and finiſh'd his miſerable Life in a Garret. Since the finiſhing the *Solution* to the foregoing Problem I met with a *Surgeon* (a Foreigner) who giving me an Account of the preſent State of the Practice of *Surgery* in the Country where he liv'd, and relating ſome conſiderable Caſes which had happen'd within his own Knowledge, in anſwer to my Deſire, among other things, told me, without any particular Intimation from me, he knew a very odd Accident, which happen'd upon a Woman's having an ulcerated *Cancer* in her right Breaſt, which was, that ſhe being poor, for want of other Conveniencies, ſuffer'd

Vide Galen, *in* Aph. Hip. Com. Lib. 6. Aph. 38.

two Children ſhe had to lie with her in that Condition; at length one of 'em, a Girl about five Years old, began to be afflicted with a ſmall painful Tumor in one of her Breaſts, which encreaſing to near the Bigneſs of an Egg, became Livid, and entirely *Cancerous*; the Mother died ſome time after, and the Child did not long ſurvive her; but the other Child continu'd well. Several *Surgeons* gave their Sentiments of this Caſe; ſome thought it to be an Hereditary Indiſpoſition, but conſidering the Mother had no Appearance of a *Cancer* before, or at the Birth of the Child, I cannot but readily embrace the Opinion of thoſe Gentlemen, that were inclin'd to believe that it was contracted by Contagion, ſeeing the Poſition of the Child's Body was ſuch in Bed, that that Part of it which was affected was almoſt always diſpoſed to rub againſt the Dreſſings ſoaked in Matter; (for I underſtand the Mother took but very little Care to change them often.) Now it is not at all probable, that the maligant *Effluvia*, which continually paſs off from the *Cancerous Maſs*, and the putrefied Matter, can diſpoſe a Perſon at any little Diſtance to be affected with the like *Diſeaſe*, for then the other Child wou'd have became a Sufferer; but it may happen in ſome extraordinary Caſes, where the

the corrupted Fluid has attain'd an exalted Pitch of Malignity, to communicate ſome of its more active Particles to the Blood and Spirits; and ſo cauſing a very great Diſorder in their Motions produce a violent Feaver, and Confuſion of the whole Oeconomy, ſo as to occaſion a Perſon's Death. But ſee a remarkable Caſe in *Tulpius*, *Lib.* 4. *Obſ.* 8. That there are ſeveral cutaneous *Diſeaſes* that may be propagated by Contagion, if a Perſon lies with another, is by all allow'd of; and that the lying with a Perſon that has a *Cancer* may be attended by ſuch a *Diſeaſe*; from the Proofs we have brought, I ſuppoſe will be agreed to be equally as certain; but this cannot happen unleſs the matter be very malignant, and be ſuffer'd, by the Negligence of the Patient, to come to an imediate Contact, with a Part of the Body of the other Perſon; for then, without doubt, it may contuminate the Fluids, and incline 'em to aſſume a Viſcidity, to which the *Effluvia* will imediately adhære, becauſe they are beſt qualify'd for a Union with thoſe Subſtances that are viſcous. To this we may add, that in thoſe Perſons that are nearly related, the Malignity may be more eaſily communicable becauſe of their Analogy to each other; for conſonant hereto, *Diemerbroeck* ſays in his Treatiſe *of*

the

the Plague, that *Kindred more easily receive the Infection from one another*. But see more in that Author's excellent Book where you have likewise some curious Thoughts relating to Contagion.

Vide Diemerbroeck *de* Peſt. *Page* 58.

Problem III.

Whether if the extirpating a Cancerous Breaſt *happens to be ſucceſsful, it ought to be look'd upon as a Conſequent of Performing the Operation better than our Predeceſſors.*

BY the Account we receive from Authors we can't be poſitively aſſured, whether there was any particular eſtabliſhed Method in the firſt Ages of this Art, for the Performance of this Operation: This we

we are only assured of, that there are some Circumstances which relate to it, that have been taken Notice of; the most considerable of which is, that the actual Cautery was to be apply'd imediately after the Abscision; this they advised, not only to put a Stop to the Flux of Blood, but likewise to correct the ill Quality of it: 'Tis to be observ'd, that they order'd always, upon such an Occasion, Defensatives to be apply'd to the contiguous Parts, to prevent their being inflamed; but for as much as they were sensible the actual Cautery would procure an Eschar, they recommended the Use of Digestives to seperate it; after which, they propos'd to heal it as a common Ulcer. The very next Advance this Operation receiv'd, that we have met with, was by that Accurate Writer *Franciscus Arceus*, who obliged the World with an exact and methodical Account of the whole Method of Proceedure in extirpating a *Cancer* in the Breast; tho' this Author wou'd only venture on those that were not ulcerated, those that were he look'd upon as incurable, we don't find that this Method was recommended to the World by any remarkable Histories of Cures effected by it;

Vide *Aetius Tetrab.* 4. Ser. 4. *Cap.* 44.

Vid. *Arceus*, lib. 2 Cap. 3 de *Curand. Vulnerib.*

it; whether it proceeded from the Unsuccessfulness of the Attempts, or its Disuse, we can't determine. *Fabritius Hildanus* likewise made a considerable Step toward the Encourageing the Performing this Operation; and he assures us, he has more than once done it with Success; he did not only influence his Contemporaries to revive an Operation, that was, perhaps, almost grown out of Date, by the Histories of some Cases he recites; but obliged them with the Figure of a Pair of Forceps, which in this Operation are very convenient to engage the Breast, and thereby prevent the Pain the Patients are sometimes put to, by piercing the Breast with Needles arm'd with Silk to suspend it. There are several Ways of performing the Operation, mention'd by latter Practitioners, but at this Time there are few that are willing to be concern'd in it. A very considerable Author speaking of extirpating a *Cancerous Breast*, advises us to take care we don't cut the Pectoral Muscle in the Operation: But we have seen a very remarkable Case of this Nature, where a Part of that Muscle was cut away, and the Cartilages of Two of the Ribs laid bare, and the Patient happen'd to be cur'd. Now if our Predecessors had so great a Respect to the avoiding the wounding of this Part, as to make

their

their Inciſions too ſuperficial, their Operations muſt be in all Probability unſucceſsful; for we are very well aſſured by Experience, that their actual Cauteries will have no good Effect here, nor will they conſume the remaining Part of the *Cancerous Maſs* We have elſewhere ſhow'd, that this Subſtance upon boiling becomes hard and friable; and we will here take the Liberty to give our Opinion of the Uſe of Cauteries in this Caſe. The *Cancerous Subſtance* we take to be nothing more than a Transformation of the ſmall glandulous Bodies, which form the Breaſt, and a Lymphatick Juice, intimately incorporated therewith, into a hard, cloſe, whiteiſh, and (by common Medicines) indiſſolvable *Maſs*. In ſome Caſes, perhaps, it may receive ſome Addition from ſome Juices, which may diſtill from the contiguous Fibres. This being granted, what Benefit, can we reaſonably imagine, will enſue on this painful Method? Will not the Fire, by cauſing the more Fluid Parts of the *Maſs* to evaporate, actually dry up, torrefy, and harden it; and ſo diſpoſe it for diſplaying a Train of miſchievous Effects, on the contiguous Parts? and all this without any very apparent Decreaſe of it too: Nay the very reducing of it to ſuch a Conſiſtence, which very much reſembles a

Piece

Piece of burnt Horn, is ſufficient to procure a perpetual Pain, ſeeing Medicines can hardly ſoften it, ſo as to reduce it to its firſt State.

Problem IV.

Whether a Salivation *will Cure a* Cancer.

THE extraordinary Succeſs this Method has been attended with, in ſome Caſes of the greateſt Difficulty, has ſo far recommended it to the World, that it's at this Time become of ſo great Repute, that there are few Perſons but what will willingly embrace it, if propoſed to 'em, provided they have found former Methods prove ineffectual. We once knew a Perſon, who labour'd under an ulcerated *Cancer* in her Breaſt, adviſed to it, and who had certainly under-gone it, tho' contrary to the Opinion of ſome Perſons concern'd, if in Three or Four Days Time ſhe had not been reduced to ſuch a weak Condition, that it put an End to the

the Controverſy. That a *Salivation* has cur'd the moſt malign and ſpreading Ulcers, and thoſe that have been of ſeveral Years continuance, notwithſtanding their Edges have been high, inverted, and aſſum'd the Conſiſtence of a callous Body we have found by ſeveral Inſtances; but that it ſhould cure a *Cancerous Ulcer*, an *Ulcer* which is chiefly ſeated in a transform'd animal Subſtance, and which has no Correſpondence with the contiguous Parts, is what we can't believe. One of the principal Effects of *Mercury*, if prudently given, is, that it attenuates the Juices, clears the Canals, deſtroys the ill Quality of that Fluid that has a Hand in cauſing any Obſtruction, and renders the Juices temperate and ſweet. By effecting this, it is, that it cures ſo many different Diſeaſes, which perhaps have not ſo great a Diverſity in their Cauſes, but have different Appearances, which depend upon the Variety of Parts, where the Cauſe operates. From hence any One may judge, that a Perſon who diſcovers a certain Method of curing *Cancers* by Medicines only, will find that it will not conſiſt in a Secret for purifying the Juices, which can have no Effect on the *Cancerous Maſs*, ſo as to procure its Diſſolution; and without a Remedy for which his Method will be always unſucceſsful. *Mercu-*

lin, in his Treatise *de Transfus Sanguinis*, Pag. 35. tells us we have no Reason to believe we may have Success from Transfusion in a *Cancer*, nor indeed would Injections succeed better; tho', perhaps, by this Means, it's possible so to alter the Fluids, that *Ulcers*, not *Cancerous*, may be cur'd in a short Time, as it once happen'd to a certain Person, who being under Cure for an inveterate Pox, had some *Rosin* of *Scammony* infused in the Essence of *Guaiacum*, injected into his Veins, which Vomited him excessively; but his *Ulcers* were heal'd in three Days Time. From what has been hitherto said, it's evident, that a *Salivation* can never cure a confirm'd *Cancer*, because it's not capable of procuring a Dissolution of that hard Substance, which is the real *Cancer* it self. The Glands we have observ'd, with the extravasated *Lympha*, and its Vessels, are perfectly changed to a different Substance to what they were before, all which make a *Mass* of such a Nature, that it will be impossible to procure its Dissolution by any inward Means. If the *Cancer* was nothing more than a Coagulation of the Juices in the Vessels, or other Canals, or Pipes, the Cure might be much more easily effected, but as the *Cancer* is conjoyn'd with such Circumstances as we have mention'd, we may affirm the Cure will

will be altogether impoſſible without the whole Subſtance with its Appendices or Branches (which we have found they often have) be taken away; or a perfect Diſſolution of all of it be procured by ſome external Remedy, which is capable of operating on it after ſuch a peculiar Manner, as to diſſolve the *Cancerous Subſtance*, without having any ſuch Effect on the contiguous Parts.

Problem V.

Whether Cancers are Curable by Cauſticks.

THE Difficulty that thoſe of our Predeceſſors who had Courage enough to attempt the Cure of *Cancers*, muſt unavoidably meet with, oblig'd them to enter upon ſeveral Methods of Practice, in order to be capable of ſurmounting it; and there have not been wanting for theſe ſeveral hundred Years laſt paſt, ſome Gentlemen in the Republick of Medicine that have propoſed to Conquer this Rebellious Diſeaſe, by the uſe of ſome particular Cauſticks, they have recommended. Its foreign to my Deſign, to give an Account of the Compoſition of the ſeveral Remedies, they have been big with the Expectation of

Succeſs

Succeſs from; I ſhall only take notice of one or two not very pompous Preparations, that by ſome Perſons I know, have been look'd upon as extraordinary as any that have been tranſmitted to us. *Guido*, who I think I may juſtly ſay is one of the beſt Authors of ſo ancient a Date, has been very laviſh of his Encomiums, on *Arſnick*, and after him *Fallopius*, *Rodericus a Caſtro*, *Oſſenius*, *Penotus*, *Faber*, *Borellus*, and others, have recommended in it in ſome particular Preparations. That of *Fuſchius*, who is ſaid to have cured abundance of Perſons of *Cancers*, in *England*, *Germany*, and *Poland*, having had the moſt ſaid in its Commendation, requires our more particular Notice; *Hartman* calls it *Pul Benedictus*, which whether it deſerves that Title, we'll leave to the Reader to Judge, after we have faithfully recounted the Effects of it. Its Preparation is as follows. ℞ *Arſenici albi* ℥i *ſubtiliſſime pulveriſetur per dies* 15 *de die tertio in tertium affundatur Aq. vitæ, ut cooperiat pulverem, poſt triduum Aq. vitæ abjiciatur, ac nova affundatur, ac miſceantur. Rad Dracunculi Major, menſe julio vel Agu. collect et in taleolas ſciſſæ ac in loco ventis perflatili exſiccatæ* ℥ii *Fuliginis Camini ſplendidi* ℥iii *redigantur omnia in ſubtiliſſimum pulverem ſuper lapidem marmoreum, et ſervetur in Vaſe bene clauſo vitreo. Ante annum vero ad uſum non erit ita commodus.* This

Powder

Powder I apply'd to a *Cancerated* Breaſt of a Woman, under thirty Years of Age, after having made a Sore by applying one of the milder *Cauſticks*, the firſt Night it was made uſe of, it caus'd a great deal of pain, and the next Day, the Breaſt appear'd very much tumefied and inflam'd, a ſmall quantity of Gleet, having diſcharg'd on the Bolſter, in ſhort for fifteen Days ſhe was not free from pain, ſhe had a *Fever*, was attended with frequent *Vomitings*, *Faintings*, and ſeveral other Diſorders. I cou'd afford her but very little Relief by internals, or the moſt cool and temperate Applications to the Breaſt, nor was it in my Power to remove the dreſſing, it adhæred ſo faſt to the Sore. There was a Diſcharge of a bloody ſerous Juice for twelve Days in a moderate quantity, after which the Matter thickned, and it began to ſmell ſomewhat offenſive, at the end of fifteen Days the Dreſſing drop'd off, and and with it came away about two Ounces of the *cancerous Maſs*. The Reader may eaſily imagine that making ſo ſmall a Progreſs in ſuch a time, and that at the Expence of ſo much Pain, I cou'd eaſily prevail with my ſelf to deſiſt from the undertaking, for the ſecond Application wou'd have been attended with the ſame Inconveniencies as the firſt, which to any Perſon that entertains ſuch a concern for his

Patients

Patients as he ought to do, muſt be very fatigueing; in ſhort, after this I made uſe of that Remedy I have elſewhere mentioned, and which from its Effect we properly enough call a *Diſſolvent*, with this by the Bleſſing of God the *Cancerous* Subſtance was conſumed in about three Weeks, and a perfect Cure compleated in not many Days after, the Patient which I ſaw lately continuing perfectly well, it being the firſt Caſe that ever Providence directed me to the uſe of the Remedy in. *Hildan.* Has an Obſervation very pertinent to what we have before related, he tells us, that the *Powder* ſo much celebrated by *Penotus*, and which is much the ſame with that juſt now mention'd, being apply'd to a *Cancer*, was ſucceeded by ſuch ill Symtoms, that it Kill'd the Patient in a few Days. We are inform'd in the communicated Obſervations of *Riverius*, that a Foreigner extirpated a Cancer, that had began to Ulcerate in the Breaſt of a Woman of Fifty Years of Age, by the following Application. ℞ *Arſenici* ℥i *Salis Armoniaci* ℥ii *ſublimat crud* ℥iiii *Aq. Fortis* ℥i *Theſe were to be diſtill'd to Dryneſs, then an equal Weight of diſtill'd Vinegar put thereto, which was to be diſtill'd again, till the remaining matter became of the Conſiſtance of a Paſte.* The Surgeon bath'd the *Cancer* with hot Wine, and rub'd it with

with Cloaths for some time to *irritate* it, then he spread some of his Composition on a Bolster six times less than the *Tumor*, and apply'd it; in twenty four Hours time, it made a *Eſcar* as large as the Swelling, so that it wholly consum'd the *Cancer*, after the Separation of the *Eſcar* he incarn'd the *Ulcer* and cicatrized it. Its very observable, that he didn't engage in this painful Process, without immediately causing a Fever, which was attended with a *Vomiting*, *Looſneſs*, and much Provocation of *Urine*, which Simptoms lasted two or three Days, for Nature was disorder'd by the destructive Quality of a venemous Remedy. *Paracelſus*, *Faber*, and some others, make mention of Arsenical Preparations, that procure but little Pain in their Operation; I had a Design of making a Trial of some of these Remedies, had I not in my Enquiries met with what was very satisfactory to me, tho' after knowing what I have related, I shou'd have always cautiously avoided the use of any Remedy, in which the *Arſnick* had not undergone such a Preparation as I shou'd have approv'd of, because I am assur'd it may procure very mischevious Symptoms, tho' in Substance, it do not so much as touch the Skin, witness the *Amulets*, in which it has been the chief Ingredient, and of which there have been

such

ſuch direful Accidents related by *Crato*, *Maſſaria*, and *Zacutus Lucitanus*. I don't think it impoſſible, but that *Arſnick* may be prepared after ſuch a manner as may by the addition of ſome convenient Body, or depriving it of its noxious Particles qualify it for effecting uncommon things in the Cure of this Diſeaſe, without cauſing the Surgeon to repent the uſe of it. I remember that *Helmont* ſomewhere ſays one may eaſily enough correct ſeveral ſorts of Poiſons, ſo that they ſhan't be depriv'd of their Force, when we deſtroy their Virulency. Many Inſtances of this Nature we meet with in Mr. *Boyl*, and ſome others; but that which makes moſt for my preſent purpoſe, is, what is mention'd by the laſt Honourable Gentleman, of a very ingenious Man he knew, that was famous, as well for his Writings, as for a Remedy to cure *ulcerated Cancers* in Womens Breaſts, without any conſiderable Pain, he aſſured our Author that his Medicine was indolent, and mortified the ulcerated Parts as far as they were corrupted, without diſordring the Party, and this Remedy it ſeems partly by the Confeſſion of the Gentleman, was reaſonably enough ſuppos'd to be a Dulcification of *Arſnick*; one wou'd think that the mention of this very Remedy, with Monſieur *Alliets*, and that recommended in the

preceeding

preceeding Letter, ſhou'd be ſufficient to influence the inquiſitive of our Profeſſion to farther Enquiries, which muſt be certainly an Undertaking, worthy the nobleſt Spirits. To conclude, we can't ſay, but there are many Cancers that may be cur'd by Cauſticks, but the Perſon that is to undergo it, may very well anſwer, as a certain Patient did, who's Thigh was to be cut off, *Non eſt tanto digna dolore Salus. The Preſervation of Life would be too dear bought at the Price of ſo much Pain.* This puts me in Mind of what is related of *Galienus* the Emperor, who it ſeems had for a conſiderable time been very grievioufly afflicted with a *Sciatica*, a certain Phyſician undertaking to cure him, perform'd indeed his Promiſe, but nevertheleſs made him undergo a thouſand painful Experiments; whereupon, the Emperor one Day ſent for, and thus ſaid to him, *Take* Fabatus *two Thouſand Seſterces, but withal, be inform'd I give 'em not for curing my* Sciatica, *but that thou may'ſt never cure me again.*

Problem

Problem VI.

Whether Cancers are Curable by internal Medicines.

THO' this *Problem* at first View, may seem to be too near Allied to that which proves the Impossibility of curing cancerous Tumors, whether ulcerated or not, by Salivation; yet in regard there are some Persons, that tell us the Disease is superable by some internal Remedies, which operate after a quite different Manner, to those generally given to procure a Salivation, we shall enquire into one of the most considerable of 'em, related by a Person whose Memory we have a very great Value for. And we shall the rather take Notice of this particular Remedy, because we have elsewhere spoke of the Success of it. 'Twere no very difficult Matter for me to mention several internal Medicines, out of our Chirurgical Writers, more especially those that have been Favourers of Chymistry; but I shall purposely decline it, because to speak freely, I suspect that most of the Remedies, tho' much has been said in their Praise, have not been sufficiently examin'd by those that recommended them. To this

this we may add, that had the Authors of 'em conſider'd the vaſt Difference there is to be obſerv'd in Cancers, they wou'd not have ſo ſuddainly and poſitively determin'd, that their Medicines were of uſe in theſe Caſes in general; ſeeing we muſt have regard to abſolutely different Intentions, in thoſe that are not ulcerated, and thoſe that are, and thoſe that are a hard Tumor, and thoſe that are flat, and likewiſe when they are conjoin'd with Circumſtances, which are often enough to be met with. The Honourable Mr. *Boyle* in his *uſefulneſs of experimental Philoſophy*, tells us, that he was inform'd by credible Perſons, of a certain *Engliſh* Woman above ſixty Years of Age, who had lain long indiſpos'd with a Cancer in the Breaſt, in an Hoſpital in *Zeeland*, and was by Doctor *Harberfeld*, with one ſingle inward Remedy perfectly cured in three Weeks, the Relation was made by a *Doctor of Phyſick*, who was an Eye Witneſs of the Cure, and another Perſon who not only ſaw the Cure, but knew the Woman before, and out of Charity, carried her to him that heal'd her. Our Author was inform'd, that the *Chimical Liquor* the Doctor conſtantly made uſe of, does in the Doſe of about a Spoonful or two, work ſuddainly and nimbly enough by Vomit, but hath very quickly

ended

ended its Operation, ſo that within an Hour, or leſs, after the Patient has taken it, he is commonly well again, and very hungry. He adds, that having ſome of the Liquor preſented him, he found the Taſte to be offenſive enough, and not unlike that of *Vitriol*, which by the Taſte and emetick Operation, was gueſs'd to be its principal Ingredient, the Relators aſſur'd our Author they had been in *England*, as well as elſewhere partly Eye Witneſſes, and partly Performers of wonderful Cures by the help of it alone, under God, in the *King's Evil*, inſomuch, that an Eminent Gentleman of this Nation, hath been cured by it, when *that Diſtemper* had brought his Arm to ſuch a paſs, that the Surgeons had appointed a time to cut it off. Now, who is there, that upon reading this Account wou'd not think the Doctor a very happy Man, that was Maſter of ſo valuable a Secret; but alas! How ſatisfactory wou'd it be to the World if the hundredth part of the Remedies that have been handed down to us, had a Power of effecting thoſe things that are aſcrib'd to 'em, without being attended with any ill Conſequences. I aſſure you, Reader, I have made uſe of this very Remedy, for ſince I mention'd it as the Doctor's having great Succeſs from it; I met with the true preparation

of

of it, as 'twas communicated to Sir *Kenelm Digby* by Doctor *Havervelt*, or *Harberfield*, for the Cure of *Cancers*, the *Kings Evil*, and old *Ulcers*. It is as follows. ℞ *Dantzick Vitriol, calcine it till it be yellow, then grind it with Salt, or Salt Petre, the ordinary proportion with this Sublime Mercury which Sublime once again by it ſelf, then take only the Criſtaline part of it; of this take* ℥i *grind it to a Subtile Powder in a Glaſs Mortar with a Glaſs Peſtle.* Put this into a Glaſs Bottle, and pour upon it a Quart of Fountain Water, ſtop the Bottle cloſe, and let it ſtand thus for ſome Days, ſhaking it often, after its well ſettled pour off the clear, and filtre it, take a Spoonful of this Liquor, which put into a Vial, and put to it two ſpoonsful of fair Water, ſhake the Vial well, and let the Patient Drink it in the Morning Faſting: As to the quickneſs of its Operation, and the making the Patient Hungry, I found it at firſt to agree with what Mr. *Boyle* ſays of it, but upon giving it three or four times, the Patients wou'd afterward complain of a Languidneſs, which was uſher'd in by a Sickneſs at the Stomach, after this, they'd be attended with a Heat and Soreneſs of the Throat, immoderate Thirſt, convulſive Motions of the Stomach, *&c.* Some of which Inconveniencies, wou'd continue

for

for many Hours together. 'Twas upon Account of the Melancholy Reflections of bringing the Patients into ſuch Diſorders and their Unwillingneſs to endure ſuch Fatigues, that I had never Courage enough to proceed in this Method. I cannot but ſay, upon the Alteration I found in a Patient of mine, from the uſe of Six Doſes of this Medicine, that it may as well as ſome other ſuch churliſh Remedies, cure ſome flat ulcerated Cancers where there's no Tumor to diſſolve, in Perſons that are capable of often repeating it, which I think is ſufficient to put us upon further Enquiries, that we may be able to accompliſh ſuch Undertakings without bringing upon the Patients ſuch a Train of miſchievous Accidents.

FINIS.

Advertiſement.

THere is now (by the ſame hand) preparing for the Preſs, *Chirurgical Collections*, which will conſiſt of many of the Author's Obſervations, of uncommon Caſes, and ſeveral which have been already communicated; theſe will be interſpers'd among the moſt curious things relating to Surgery, taken from the Performances of the *German Eruditi*, in their *Acta Lipſiæ*, the *Miſcelan. Curioſa*, *Philoſophical Tranſact.* *Memoirs for the Curious*, *Voyages*, *Travels*, *Natural Hiſtories of Counties*, and many other things that will afford uſeful Obſervations. In this Collection will be a great number of Figures of Caſes, Inſtruments, Machines, *&c.* All which will be curiouſly Engrav'd on Copper Plates. The Author in this Undertaking has no other Deſign, than the Improvement of the Art, and will gratefully receive any communicated Obſervations.

N. B. The Introduction to this Piece, will give an Account of our famous *Engliſh* Writers in Phyſick and Surgery, for many hundred Years laſt paſt.

Books Printed for *Geo. Strahan* Bookſeller, at the *Golden Ball*, over againſt the *Royal Exchange* in *Cornhill*.

Octavo.

Præſagium Medicum, or the prognoſtick Signs of acute Diſeaſes, Eſtabliſh'd by ancient Obſervation, and explain'd by the beſt modern Diſcoveries. By *James Harvey*. M. D.

The *Art* of curing Venereal Diſeaſes, explain'd by natural and mechanical Principles. By *Nicholas de Blegni*, Surgeon to the French King. Done into Engliſh by *J. H.* M. D.

Sea Diſeaſes, or a Treatiſe of their Nature, Cauſes and Cure: *Alſo* an Eſſay of Bleeding in Fevers. By *Wm. Cockburn. M. D.* and late Phyſitian of his Majeſty's Fleet. Fellow of the Royal Society.

An Account of the Nature, *Cauſes*, Symptoms, and *Cure* of Looſeneſſes. By the ſame *Author*.

An Account of animal Secretion, the Quantity of Blood in the Humane Body, and the muſcular motion. By *James Keil*, M. D.

The Practice of Phyſick, reduc'd to the ancient Way of Obſervations. Containing a juſt Parallel between the Experience of the *Ancients*, and the Hypotheſis, of modern Phyſitians. With ſeveral new and curious Diſſertations; particularly of the *Tarantula*. Written in Latin by *George Baglivi*, *M. D.*

A Treatiſe of the Diſeaſes of Tradeſmen, ſhewing the various Influence of particular Trades upon the State of Health. With the beſt Methods to avoid or correct it. Written in Latin by *Bern. Ramazin*, Profeſſor of Phyſick at *Padua*.

Chirurgical Remarks, occaſion'd by the Death of a Child, whoſe *Caſe* was lately publiſh'd. To which is added an *Account* of a Wound of the Brain by a Bullet, with Reflections thereon.